

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

October 18, 2021

Notice was provided on our website, www.truxtonacademy.org on Monday, October 4, 2021.

A quorum of 7 trustees out of 8 total number of trustees was present as follows:

Members Present: Stuart Young, Tom Brown, Sarah Stevens, Krysta Austen and Dave Amberg attended in person. Korinne L'Hommedieu and Beth Klein joined remotely.

Members Absent: Cindy Denkenberger.

Others present: Leaf Carmer, Patty Dawson attended in person. Sara Petit-McClure, Jeanne Beutner from Heveron & Company, CPAs (Auditor), Lydia Aris Brown, and Kathie Arnold, joined remotely.

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Tom Brown moved, Sarah Stevens seconded, to accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting September 13, 2021. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Jeanne Beutner from Heveron & Company, CPAs presented the 2020-2021 audit review. Audit results are clean, meaning our finances are fairly represented. The report with recommendations was shared with the Board (see attached). Jeanne reported that the team was happy to see that we did act on last year's recommendations and that our accounting was in really good shape. There were no serious issues. They recommend we tighten up controls more for this year.

School Report

Sara Petit McClure reported that the 4th grade had to go virtual for one week due to COVID quarantining and a few staff were out sick. She is happy to say that everyone is back now. The MAP growth testing was completed. The report is attached. Most students completed testing, however some did not due to illness and/or quarantine. Students will complete testing two more times this year to mark progress. Sara reported that there is still no updated State test data.

Trunk or Treat at Truxton Academy is coming up Friday, October 29 at 6pm. The students will also have a Book Character Costume parade during school on October 29. They can come as character from book or wear another costume that they write a story about to share with fellow students. They will walk thru town to the Post Office and back while parents and community members watch. The 3rd and 4th graders will be working on the Top Beef Contest again. Students will be working in small groups this time instead of as a whole grade. We will also have SUNY Cortland practicum students starting to work with the 1st and 2nd graders soon.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report attached. Korinne reported that our cash position declined \$55k from last quarter, since we are still waiting on a large payment from Cortland Enlarged district – approx. \$206,000. We are still in good shape. Marathon also has an outstanding tuition payment. Leaf has worked out the situation with both and they will follow up if payment is not received soon. In the future, Korinne will include a QuickBooks report with comments to explain any differences. Our revenue to date is approximately

\$412,000, the majority is from tuition payments. \$20,789 of it is from the Rural School Ag Grant. Korinne asked Sara to explain the Food Service variance. Sara reported that we will now be able to get reimbursement for meals rather than revenue from parents. The rate is higher than FRPL, and will be for all students. We will submit for reimbursement monthly for the previous month, funds come from Federal Government, passed thru the State. Lastly, Korinne reported that our Net Income to date, including dissolution fund, is \$16k above where we projected to be at this time. We are in a good position going forward.

Finance Committee Report was submitted. Tom reported that adjustments are being made according to the Audit recommendations. We still haven't heard what will be given for the EEC Fund Grant.

Beth Klein moved, David Amberg seconded, to approve the Audit as presented by Heveron & Company, CPAs, and accepting the financial statements. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Personnel Committee

No report. Sara reported that interviews are taking place for the cafeteria aid position. We are still looking for substitute teachers, but have had no luck with scheduling interviews yet. This is an industry wide issue. We are making due with Sara and Mrs. Hull providing coverage as needed until this can be resolved.

Facilities Committee

Report submitted. Tom reported that boiler control board had issues. Art Grosbeck stepped in and replaced and updated at very fair price. Levi has been monitoring as well to ensure proper function.

Curriculum Committee

Report submitted. Beth Klein reported that professional development was reviewed. We are now focusing on common language for situations in school and outside of school, i.e. buses, etc. Working on graphics to be posted around the school to reinforce as well. Team building will take place at all staff meetings this year. We are asking SUNY to compare Truxton Academy to both Homer, our required home district, and Cortland, since so many students come from Cortland. The committee wants to make sure the Board is aware and preparing for SUNY renewal next year. They are also asking for the nominating committee to focus on new Board members with curriculum background.

Marketing Committee

No Report submitted. Patty reported that we are looking to transition to having Sarah Stevens and Krysta Austen co-chair the Marketing Committee moving forward. We will be meeting soon to approve signs for Labrador and Song Mountain as Mr. Harris has generously offered to allow us to place at no charge!

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee

Report submitted. Fresh produce donations were put into use at lunch. Tom reported that grant for salad bar came was approved.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted. Lydia reported looking for contact info for Trout in Classroom and Growing Towers. If we prove success with growing towers, it may lead to more funding with High Tunnels. She will be speaking with Katie Carpenter on the program. Kathie Arnold mentioned that the National Resources Conservation services may provide funding. She is working on application with the Cortland office for partial cost, installation may need to be done. The Truxton Community Center would be able to apply as they have already received approval as "farm."

Transportation Committee

Report submitted. Tom reported that we have a volunteer bus driver available, pending Board approval. The proposed bus driver, Tom Henry, should also be able to serve as a trainer for other drivers once he has the necessary S&P endorsements on his CDL license.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Beth Klein, to approve Mr. Henry as a bus driver for Truxton Academy Charter School. Having no discussion and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Dave Amber, to approve new insurance premium through Progressive to put bus on the road (see attached). Having no discussion and none opposed. Motion carried.

Fundraising Committee

Report submitted. Dave reported still no decision on Organic Valley Grant. Dave reached out to Syracuse office of the Wild Ones, native plant grant. It so happens that he knows the contact, Dave Mitchell, who came down to review our site with Kathie and provided list of pollinator plants. It is a \$500 grant. Kathie noted that before we accept these types of grants, we need staff to incorporate into lessons and commit to maintaining them. Same with the high tunnel. Dave and Kathie both recommend that we wait until next year to apply. Dave is applying to the American Heart Association grant and will target for fencing around gardens to dissuade critters and deer. He also reported that the dog treat program has been handed off from Mindy Amberg to Jenny Hull and the fourth graders.

Personnel Committee

No report submitted.

Agriculture Committee

No report submitted.

With no objection to reports as submitted, reports are all approved.

Old Business

Patty Dawson reported that she has spoken with Jill Shahan. We need to set a date for a discussion on how we would like to proceed with Board Training. The board agreed to plan for November 8 at 6:00pm, prior to our next regular Board meeting. Patty will confirm with Jill if Sara and Leaf should be included.

Tom reported on Leadership council. There are several students with challenges. The group is studying ways on how to handle this. They may come to board with an ask for personnel support.

School Events

Oct 22 No School – Professional Development Day

Oct 29 Book Character Parade 10am

Oct 29 Trunk or Treat at Truxton Academy - 6-8pm

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. None opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary